AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application with the listing of claims as follows:

Listing of Claims

1.-156. (Canceled)

157. (Currently Amended) A method implemented by a computer server system programmed for operating a collaborative support system for a plurality of users, comprising:

the computer server system making available a process of the computer server system enabling a first subset of the plurality of users to post <u>first</u> items to be accessible to ~~all of~~ the plurality of users;

the computer server system receiving from a second subset of the plurality of users <u>second items comprising</u> first rating data entries corresponding to one or more of the posted <u>first</u> items;

the computer server system receiving from a third subset of the plurality of users <u>third items comprising</u> second rating data entries rating the ~~first rating data entries~~ <u>second items</u>;

the computer server system deriving third rating data entries rating respective ones of the <u>second subset of the</u> plurality of users based at least in part on a plurality of the second rating data entries <u>received from the third subset of the plurality of users</u>;

~~the computer server system filtering the posted items, wherein the filtering selects a subset of the posted items to be viewed by a particular user of the system by taking into account the first and third rating data entries;~~ and

the computer server system ~~providing filtered viewing~~ <u>presenting to a particular user</u> <u>selected ones</u> of the ~~selected subset of the posted~~ <u>first</u> items ~~to the particular user~~ <u>on the basis,</u> <u>at least in part, of the derived third rating data entries;</u>

<u>wherein all of the plurality of users are enabled to post first items and to submit the</u> <u>second and the third items, and thus, to become members of the second and the third subsets</u> <u>of the plurality of users.</u>

158.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein the <u>derived</u> third rating data entries serve as a reputation of respective ones of the <u>second subset of the</u> plurality of users.

159.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein there are multiple alternative algorithms for performing the ~~filtering~~ <u>selecting</u>, and a particular one of the multiple alternative algorithms to be used for a given ~~request for a filtered view~~ <u>selection</u> may be selected by the particular user.

160.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 159, wherein one or more of the multiple alternative algorithms [[may]] are themselves [[be]] ones of the posted <u>first</u> items that are subject to rating by the plurality of users.

161.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein the computer server system ~~providing filtered viewing~~ <u>presenting selected ones of the first items</u> comprises one or more of ranking, applying a cut-off threshold algorithm, <u>filtering,</u> and presenting an indication of a rating value.

162.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein the ~~derived~~ third rating data entries that serve as a reputation of respective ones of the second subset of the plurality of users are ~~applied~~ based on a reputation weighting factor to weight a first user's first rating data entry of a posted first item from a third user relative to [[the]] a second user's first rating data entry ~~ratings~~ of ~~other ones of the plurality of users relating to~~ ~~that~~ the posted first item ~~based on the reputation of the first user~~ to derive a composite ranking of the posted first item relative to other posted first items.

163.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 162, wherein a degree to which the reputation weighting factor affects the ~~filtered view provided~~ selection presented to the particular user is controllable by the particular user.

164.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 162, wherein the weightings are based on the respective reputation weighting factors within a domain associated with the respective ones of the posted items.

165.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein the reputation of a first user of the plurality of users is based at least in part on at least one of: (1) one or more of the ~~posted~~ second items ~~posted by other ones of the plurality users~~ pertaining to one or more of the first items received from the first user, and (2) one or more of the third items~~, and the~~ ~~posted items received from the other ones of the plurality of users rate~~ pertaining to one or more of the ~~posted~~ second items received from the first user.

166.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 165, wherein <u>at least one of: (1)</u> the ~~ratings the first rating data entries, and (2)~~ <u>the first rating data entries, and (2) the second rating data entries,</u> of ~~the other ones of the plurality users are weighted more heavily for~~ those users <u>of the plurality of users</u> having a higher reputation within the same domain as the <u>at least one of: (1)</u> <u>the one or more of the first items received from the first user, and (2) the one or more of the second items received from the</u> ~~one or more of the posted items posted by the~~ first user<u>, are weighted more heavily</u>.

167.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein a particular one of the ~~posted~~ <u>first</u> items <u>corresponding to the first rating data entries</u> ~~being rated~~ is one of an item that is a rating of [[an]] <u>another one of the first items</u> [[item]] posted by one of the plurality of users, an item that is a rating of a reputation of one of the plurality of users, and an item that is any other class of the ~~posted~~ <u>first</u> items.

168.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 158, wherein a <u>first</u> rating <u>data entry</u> <u>corresponding to</u> [[of]] a respective one of the ~~posted~~ <u>first</u> items <u>posted</u> by one of the plurality of users may be associated with a user-specified confidence level representing that user's level of confidence in that rating.

169.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 168, wherein the reputation of a respective one of the plurality of users is determined with lower dependence on ratings given lower confidence by that user than on ratings given higher confidence by that user.

170.　(Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, wherein ~~the population of~~ the plurality of users collectively comprise a community that may be divided into multiple sub-communities and the ~~filtering~~ presenting to the particular user the selected ones of the ~~posted~~ first items by the computer server system further takes into account [[the]] a level of the ~~respective~~ the particular user's membership in a specified sub-community.

171.　(Currently Amended) The method of claim 157, further comprising the computer server system providing viewing of at least selected ones of the first rating data entries corresponding to one or more of the ~~posted~~ first items.

172.　(Currently Amended) The method of claim 171, wherein the computer server system providing viewing of the first rating data entries further comprises the computer server system ~~filtering~~ presenting the at least selected ones of first rating data entries in such a manner as to take into account the derived third rating data entries.

173.　(Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein the computer server system comprises a plurality of cooperating server computers each of which comprises a respective processor, mass memory, and at least one program, and wherein the computer server system communicates with a plurality of computerized client devices controlled by respective ones of the plurality of users.

174.　(Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein the computer server system includes a database, the method further comprising:

the computer server system receiving from the particular user a database query, wherein the database query enables the computer server system to identify a particular subset of the first items that satisfy the query,

wherein the particular subset of ~~the first~~ items that satisfy the query comprise the selected ~~subset~~ ones of the ~~posted~~ first items ~~provided~~ presented by the computer server system ~~for filtered viewing~~.

175.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, further comprising:

the computer server system receiving a query from the particular user,

wherein a particular subset of ~~the first~~ items responsive to the query comprise the selected ~~subset~~ ones of the ~~posted~~ first items ~~provided~~ presented by the computer server system ~~for filtered viewing~~.

176.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 175, wherein the computer server system ~~providing filtered viewing~~ presenting to the particular user selected ones of the first items comprises providing the particular subset of the ~~posted~~ first items based at least in part by ranking the particular subset of the ~~posted~~ first items in accordance with an algorithm based at least in part upon the first rating data entries corresponding to respective ones of each of the particular subset of the ~~posted~~ first items.

177.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the second subset of the plurality of users is an identified user.

178.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least one of the respective ones of the second subset of the plurality users is an anonymous user.

179.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein the first rating data entries are implicit.

180.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein the first rating data entries are explicit.

181.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein the second rating data entries are implicit.

182.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein the second rating data entries are explicit.

183.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein the first rating data entries and the second rating data entries are themselves subject to respective ratings ~~rating~~ by the computer server system.

184.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least two of the first, second and third subsets are overlapping subsets.

185.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least two of the first, second and third subsets are non-overlapping subsets.

186.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein ~~at least one~~ a particular one of the second rating data entries corresponding to a particular one of the ~~rating the first rating data entries~~ second items comprises ~~comprise~~ a rating relating to [[a]] the particular one of the second items ~~first rating data entries~~.

187.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 171, wherein ~~at least one~~ a particular plurality of the second rating data entries ~~rating the first rating data entries~~ corresponding to a particular plurality of the second items comprise ~~a rating~~ respective rating relating to ~~at least a~~ the particular plurality of the ~~first rating data entries~~ second items, and wherein further, the particular plurality of the second items are received from a single one of the second subset of the plurality of users.

188. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 183, wherein the respective ratings ~~rating~~ of the ~~first rating data entries~~ second items and the third items ~~second rating data entries is~~ are performed by the computer server system based upon a collective rating of the ~~first rating data entries~~ second items and the ~~second rating data entries~~ third items by the plurality of users.

189. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 157, wherein ~~any user is permitted to be a member of any of the first, second, and third subsets of users~~ the second items and the third items include rating elements based on human evaluation.

190. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[189]] 157, wherein the collaborative support system is unmoderated with regard to the actions recited in Claim 157.

191. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the derived third rating data entries are based on factors specific to the particular user.

192. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein the presenting is based on factors specific to the particular user.

193. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein all of the plurality of users are identifiable users.

194. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein all of the plurality of users are identified users.

195. (New) The method of Claim 157, wherein at least some of the plurality of users are anonymous users.

196. (New) A method implemented by a computer server system programmed for operating a collaborative support system for a plurality of users, comprising:

the computer server system making available a process of the computer server system enabling a first subset of the plurality of users to post first items to be accessible to the plurality of users;

the computer server system receiving from a second subset of the plurality of users second items comprising first rating data entries corresponding to one or more of the posted first items;

the computer server system receiving from a third subset of the plurality of users third items comprising second rating data entries rating the second items;

the computer server system deriving third rating data entries rating respective ones of the second subset of the plurality of users based at least in part on a plurality of the second rating data entries received from the third subset of the plurality of users; and

the computer server system presenting to a particular user selected ones of the first items on the basis, at least in part, of the derived third rating data entries;

wherein substantially all of the plurality of users are enabled to post first items and to submit the second and the third items, and thus, to become members of the second and the third subsets of the plurality of users.

197.   (New) The method of claim 196, wherein the derived third rating data entries serve as a reputation of respective ones of the second subset of the plurality of users.

198.   (New) The method of claim 197, wherein the derived third rating data entries that serve as a reputation of respective ones of the second subset of the plurality of users are applied based on a reputation weighting factor to weight a first user's first rating data entry of a posted first item from a third user relative to a second user's first rating data entry of the posted first item to derive a composite ranking of the posted first item relative to other posted first items.

199.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein the first rating data entries are implicit.

200.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein the first rating data entries are explicit.

201.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein the second rating data entries are implicit.

202.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein the second rating data entries are explicit.

203.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein substantially all of the plurality of users are identifiable users.

204.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein substantially all of the plurality of users are identified users.

205.   (New) The method of Claim 196, wherein at least some of the plurality of users are anonymous users.

206. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein open participation by all of the plurality of users is enabled for the submission of first rating data entries and second rating data entries, and weightings are applied in place of binary exclusions to selectively favor consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of more favorable third rating data entries, and to selectively reduce consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of less favorable third rating data entries.

207. (New) The method of claim 157, wherein open participation by substantially all of the plurality of users is enabled for the submission of first rating data entries and second rating data entries, and weightings are applied in place of binary exclusions to selectively favor consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of more favorable third rating data entries, and to selectively reduce consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of less favorable third rating data entries.

208. (New) The method of claim 196, wherein open participation by all of the substantially all of the plurality of users is enabled for the submission of first rating data entries and second rating data entries, and weightings are applied in place of binary exclusions to selectively favor consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of more favorable third rating data entries, and to selectively reduce consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of less favorable third rating data entries.

209. (New) The method of claim 196, wherein open participation by substantially all of the substantially all of the plurality of users is enabled for the submission of first rating data entries and second rating data entries, and weightings are applied in place of binary exclusions to selectively favor consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of more favorable third rating data entries, and to selectively reduce consideration of first rating data entries and second rating data entries from particular users who are a subject of less favorable third rating data entries.